

Eddie Sleeper

From: Amy O'Neal <amyoneeeal@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 9:55 PM
To: Eddie Sleeper
Subject: Testimony for February 13, 2018 Energy Committee Meeting

Good evening,

My fiancé and I moved into our 990 square foot home in May of this year. Our home is heated by electric baseboard heat, which we are aware is not a very cost-effective way to heat a home, but the energy bills from the previous owners only averaged about \$150-\$200 last winter so we figured that would be manageable enough. We were shocked in December to receive a \$208.24 (1,382 kwh) bill for the month of November, so we set the thermostats in the house to 60 degrees in the rooms that we use most often, and 55 degrees in the rooms we do not use as often. **We have had our thermostats set to 55 and 60 degrees since then.** I am not sure if you realize just how cold that is. Imagine our surprise when our electric bill for December went up to \$272.75 (1,892 kwh). The good news, we thought, was that it couldn't get any higher than that. So when we received a \$438.67 bill for the month of January, I knew something was going on. That's 2,982 kwh for two people in a 990 square foot house kept at 55 and 60 degrees which, according to my bill, is a **45% increase from a year ago.** Does that make any sense to you? It sure doesn't make sense to me or anyone else that I have talked to. We don't own any space heaters, we do laundry with cold water once a week. We take warm showers once a day. We wash dishes in the sink by hand. We did not have anyone over for the holidays, as the DTE rep that I spoke with suggested we might've. In fact, we were gone more than usual visiting family for the holidays. I am curious to know when the smart meter was installed in my home. I am curious also as to what my electric bill would look like if we still had an analog meter, and if an actual human being came to my home and read the meter rather than blindly trusting remote readings from a computer. Conveniently enough, the consumers have no way to prove that we are being cheated and robbed, other than the outrageous increases in our bills. But rest assured that we are not ignorant to what is happening. News channels have been contacted, as well as our local politicians.

House Bill 4220, the Analog Meter Choice Bill, needs to be passed because customers are being deceived and robbed, and the only way to prevent this is re-standardizing the analog meter.

Regards,

Amy O'Neal